

# THE **WOLVERINE** GUARD

**Detroit Lions honor Purple Heart recipient**

**CSMS gains ISO certification**

**Toys for Troops**

**STARBASE-Battle Creek**

**Michigan National Guard's finest  
Soldiers & Airmen**

A publication of the Michigan Army and Air National Guard  
[www.Michigan.gov/dmva](http://www.Michigan.gov/dmva)  
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Photo by Spc. Lakeshia Tryon  
Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler welcomes Sgt. Maj. Delbert Husband of the 146th Multifunctional Medical Battalion home from a 14-month deployment to Iraq on Sept. 28, 2007 at the Grand Ledge Armory in Grand Ledge, Mich.



Photo by Master Sgt. Denice Rankin  
Maj. Gen. Cutler, Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Slee and Staff Sgt. Louis Swift pose with Girl Scout Troop 307 from the Peninsula Waters Council during the 46th Military Police Company return to K.I. Sawyer airport on Sept. 23, 2007. The troop helped to hang some of the 100 banners around the Kingsford Armory in Kingsford, Mich.



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Smith  
Maj. Gen. Cutler and cadets of the Civil Air Patrol, Scott M. Burgess Composite Squadron in Lansing, Mich., pause for a picture during the Gold Star Moms' POW/MIA ceremony at the Grand Ledge Armory in Grand Ledge, Mich., on Sept. 22, 2007.



*From the desk of  
The Adjutant General*



**TAG  
TALK**

I was again tremendously honored to represent all of you as I recently participated in several different Veterans Day events. I was asked to speak at two of those events and it gave me a wonderful opportunity to tell your story.

I reminded each audience that most Americans understand what Veterans Day is, but it isn't really personal for them. As I spoke to them, I did my best to tell them about some true American Heroes I've met over the past few years. I told them about veterans from World War II, Korea and Vietnam, who I've had the pleasure to present medals they earned many years ago. I shared the pride of service that I saw in the eyes of those proud veterans and I told their story of personal sacrifice for their country. I was then able to fast forward and tell your story.

I was proud to tell them that today's generation of Soldiers and Airmen are just as proud to serve. I told them about the sacrifices you and your family make to serve our country and I told them about the courage I see as you willingly go into harm's way. I had the opportunity to tell them about the courage of the Michigan National Guard Soldiers that have been wounded. Our wounded Soldiers are always the first ones to remind us that "Freedom is not free!" As I shared these stories, their expressions revealed that Veterans Day had become a lot more personal.

As I visited with people after each event, the consistent feedback I got was, "Please tell your Soldiers and Airmen how much we appreciate their service." Telling your story made it personal for them and I could tell they were proud of your service.

As I spoke and attempted to make Veterans Day more personal to them, I was reminded of how personal your service has become to the senior leadership team. We are all so appreciative of your willingness to serve and we continue to look for additional ways to support you and your families. We were pleased to have several of our units come home over the past few months. It is a great day when a unit comes home, but we are also reminded that many challenges await our Soldiers and Airmen when they return home from a long deployment.

We have said it at your homecomings; we are committed to providing each of you the support you need to make a successful transition back into whatever is "normal" for you and your family. This is a team effort and we welcome the opportunity to serve you and your family.

As we look to the future, we are also reminded that we still have many Michigan National Guard Soldiers and Airmen deployed. They are busy fighting the war on terrorism and tyranny and we need to keep them and their families in our thoughts and prayers. They are there doing great work on behalf of our country and we should be thankful for their service and their sacrifice. I know each of you are as proud of them as I am.

Lastly, I would like to wish everyone a very happy holiday season. It's a wonderful time of the year to tell your favorite Soldier or Airman how proud you are of them. Thanks again for all you do!

*Thomas G. Cutler*

Maj. Gen. Thomas G. Cutler



President Abraham Lincoln defined the nation's mission to its veterans in 1865 in his second inaugural address when he promised our nation of veterans that American would "...care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan." It is long established and well recognized that the country owes a debt of gratitude to those who have served and a greater debt to those who have been injured by that service.

We must actively **recognize** and say thank you to our nation's 24 million living veterans who represent nearly a century of selfless sacrifices in assuring our American way of life and all that is right and just.

We must actively **dedicate** ourselves to supporting and caring for the men and women serving our country. We are grateful for their service and their family.

I would like to recognize several of our partners on the Joint Veterans Council who have made a profound difference for our Soldiers.

★ The Department of Labor and Economic Growth – Project MOVE aims to employ Michigan's recently separated Reserve and National Guard men and women by providing career counseling, creating career opportunities that showcase the strengths of their military training.

★ Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) has been called the hallmark injury for our men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan. In order to further reinforce the significance of TBI and its effect on our military and their families, the Brain Injury Association of Michigan and the LAPS Walk 2007 at the Michigan International Speedway theme was "Helmets and Heroes." LAPS WALK 2007 brought in nearly \$60,000 and welcomed over 500 walkers – the most in the event's three year history. Funds raised will help facilitate care for our Americans returning with a TBI.

★ The Veteran Service Organizations and the Michigan Veterans County Counselors for their countless support of our service men and women, claims processing, and financial assistance.

**Recognize** the courage and sacrifice of America's veteran; courage passed down across generations; courage that inspires our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen.

**Rededicate** our selves to **Serve Our American Heroes.**

**Happy Holidays.** May God Bless You, Your Family, Our Veterans...and May God Bless the United States of America.

Brig. Gen. Carol Ann Fausone



Photo courtesy of Brig. Gen. Carol Ann Fausone  
Brig. Gen. Carol Fausone stands amongst Marines, Sailors, Airmen and Soldiers during a tribute to veterans on Veterans Day observed, Nov. 12, 2007 in Wayland, Mich.



Photo courtesy of Brig. Gen. Carol Ann Fausone  
Several Michigan Army National Guard Soldiers pose next to the NASCAR sponsored National Guard race car during the 2007 LAPS Walk on Aug. 16, 2007 at the Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Mich.



Photo courtesy of Brig. Gen. Carol Ann Fausone  
Brig. Gen. Carol Ann Fausone (center) walks alongside an estimated 500 walkers in support of the 3rd Annual LAPS Walk on Aug. 16, 2007 at the Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Mich. The walk generated nearly \$60,000 to help battle traumatic brain injuries.



*Design by Staff Sgt. Helen Miller  
Cover: Pfc. Bradley McCoy reads the first Christmas card received by the 177th Military Police Brigade. The 177th is currently deployed to Iraq.*

*Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Perry Miller*

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Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm

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## Bullets

### **Free legal assistance program**

The Joint Force Headquarters Judge Advocate office is working in liaison with the Thomas M. Cooley Law School to provide free legal assistance to service members and their dependents during deployments.

The legal assistance referral program offers consultations right at reserve centers and other military locations during drills or military events. It is also the only civilian program in Michigan specifically designed to assist with the immediate needs of military personnel returning from deployment.

For more information or assistance contact Ms. Heather Spielmaker at 517-371-5140 ext. 4112 or via email at [spielmah@cooley.edu](mailto:spielmah@cooley.edu).

### **ESGR Freedom Award nominations**

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Freedom Award is presented annually to those employers who exhibit support to their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve. This is the highest employer award presented by the U.S. government.

The nomination period began Nov. 1, 2007 and will end Jan. 21, 2008. To nominate your employer, visit the ESGR website at [www.esgr.com](http://www.esgr.com) and follow the link to the Freedom Award nomination page.

If you have questions concerning nominations, contact the Michigan Committee for ESGR at 517-323-7731 or [gary.aten@mi.ngb.army.mil](mailto:gary.aten@mi.ngb.army.mil).

### **Strong Bonds Marriage Retreat**

The Michigan National Guard Joint Force Headquarters is hosting a Strong Bonds Retreat, a marriage enrichment weekend for demobilized married Soldiers and their spouses.

The retreat is designed to assist couples with reintegration and reunion by enhancing communication skills.

The retreat will be held January 25-27, 2008 at the Royal Park Hotel located in Rochester, Mich.

There will be additional Strong Bonds retreats throughout Fiscal Year 08 regionally oriented around the state.

Questions can be addressed to the retreat coordinator, Chaplain Herb

Heavner at 517-481-8325 or by email at [herbet.heavner@mi.ngb.army.mil](mailto:herbet.heavner@mi.ngb.army.mil)

### **Summer Surge Drill Sgt. Program**

The Army National Guard recently adjusted the ARNG Summer Surge Drill Sergeant Program by reducing the support commitment for graduates to Summer Surge FY 08 only.

This program remains open for qualified NCOs to attend the active component drill sergeant course at Fort Jackson, SC with all funding provided by the army at no expense to the Soldier's state or unit.

Candidates must be of the rank sergeant to sergeant first class and meet the drill sergeant criteria found at [www.guarddrillsergeant.com](http://www.guarddrillsergeant.com).

Required documentation can be found at [www.guarddrillsergeant.com](http://www.guarddrillsergeant.com).

### **Calling all "grill sergeants"**

The Pentagon Channel is launching an exciting new military lifestyle program called "The Grill Sergeants" and is looking for help.

This weekly cooking show will feature some of the military's top chefs as they guide viewers through step-by-step preparation of several regional dishes.

Send recipes, along with a video or photo of your dish to [info@pentagonchannel.mil](mailto:info@pentagonchannel.mil) and you could be featured on the show.

### **Prisoners train a special dog to help wounded Soldiers**

Pathways to Hope, a nonprofit organization that helps prisons and service dog groups start prison dog programs, a program where inmates train dogs to assist the handicapped, especially wounded Soldiers returning from deployments.

These special dogs are given to the wounded veteran free of charge.

Any wounded Soldier or someone who knows a wounded Soldier who could benefit by having one of these special dogs, are encouraged to contact Sister Pauline Quinn at 207-632-2554 or email her at [srpauline@pathwaystohope.org](mailto:srpauline@pathwaystohope.org).

For more information on the Pathways to Hope visit <http://www.pathwaystohope.org>.

# Roses are red, violets are blue, smells leave an impression too

By Chaplain (Col.) Herb Heavner

The common skunk emits the most horrendous aroma imagined. I am not sure why God created the skunk; however, I believe the smell of the skunk was not included with the original package. If so, then I believe there would be no skunks today because the two skunks on the ark would have been made extinct by residents of Noah's ark.

So what does the smell of a skunk have to do with life in the National Guard? It is not the skunk but the unique bad smell. Recently I attended an Army conference which discussed a lot about the unique nature of the battle ground that our soldiers face. Smells can remain a part of the Soldier's combat experience long after leaving Iraq. Particularly, in Iraq the range of distinguished odors is wide and varied. From the smell of raw sewage in the street to the smell of human death, there can be no mistake about it—serving in Iraq stinks! Sometimes the memory of that smell can linger long after returning to the pleasant aroma of hometown soil. That is one reason why returning home from the combat zone does not mean that you have left everything behind in Iraq.



Chaplains deal with re-deployed Soldiers and their families everyday. We try to help Soldiers reintegrate into their family and home life. Frequently we encounter individuals who have a hard time making that adjustment. The sights and sounds of the battlefield are hard to forget and that unmistakable stink of the past may be more difficult to remove than the odor of a skunk. Perhaps worst of all, is still imagining that buddy who went down in combat and whose life will never be replaced.

There is no magical solution to reintegration and the memory of the smells of combat are not simply replaced with pleasant thoughts. I am here to tell you that God is ready to stand beside you in the process. He is ready to help you deal with your pain and is available to help you in the healing process. He is prepared to help you wash away the stink. Turn to Him, rely upon Him, and allow Him to show you the beginning of the road to true reintegration into the great life of America, and the better way of life with your family.

Remember your chaplains are praying for the success of your reintegration and that you will truly be glad for the sweet aroma of this great land!

## Toys for Troops

By Sgt. Michael Husken

Have you ever heard the phrase "you never know unless you ask?" Well, earlier this year a question was asked and it was answered with a loud and positive response.

A simple email to a radio station from Sgt. Michael Husken, 46th Military Police Company, while deployed to Baghdad, Iraq led to a major campaign drive to raise money for toys for Iraqi children.

While deployed, Husken listened to WWJ News Radio 950 online. He was aware of possible legislation which might hamper online radio broadcast, so he sent an email offering his support to the station. The vice president of the station forwarded his email to the staff and Husken received several emails from the staff thanking the Soldiers for their service.

Carol Ewing and Lisa Thorn of WWJ told Husken the station had been discussing support for the troops and wondering what they could do for them. Carol emailed Husken asking, "How can we help the troops?"

Rather than ask for the usual Soldier request of toiletries and snacks, Husken meekly petitioned for some stuffed animals or soccer balls. He explained to the ladies of WWJ that they often saw great community results by giving out toys and soccer balls.



Photo by Spc. Christine Machac  
Michigan Army National Guard Sgt. Michael Husken of the 46th Military Police Company delivers toys to Iraqi children outside the Iraqi National Police Headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq. The toys were collected as part of the Toys for Troops campaign.

*(Story continued on page 14- Toys)*

# Purple Heart recipient honored as Detroit Lions' Hometown Hero

By Command Sgt. Maj. Sandy Chwierut

Detroit Lions football fans may figuratively say the team is the 'apple of their eye,' but Michigan Army National Guard Sgt. Phillip LaBonte may be the only fan who can literally say the Lions are the 'twinkle in his eye.'

On May 26, 2007, LaBonte was on patrol in Baghdad, Iraq when his vehicle was struck by an improved explosive device resulting in the loss of his legs and left eye. As a result of this hostile enemy action, LaBonte earned a Purple Heart for injuries sustained while serving his country.

LaBonte, who is from Harris, Mich., has a positive outlook and attitude regarding what has happened to him, and his actions prove that. To say he is an avid Detroit Lions fan would be an understatement. To show his true allegiance to the Lions, he had his left eye replaced with a glass eye bearing the "Honolulu Blue" Lions' insignia.



Photo by Carlos Osorio (AP Photo)

Sgt. Philip LaBonte is a devoted Detroit Lions fan; so devoted his glass eye bears the Lions insignia.

When the Detroit Lions learned of LaBonte's story from Carol Ewing, who assists with the Toys for Soldiers program, the team offered him the opportunity to be the Hometown Hero at a future game. The Hometown Hero program started three years ago by Detroit Lions' Chad Walker, honors brave men and women who have recently returned from service overseas.

On Sunday, Oct. 21, 2007, the Detroit Lions faced-off with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on home turf at Ford Field in Detroit. During the third quarter, LaBonte was escorted onto the field by his parents, Pat and Debbie LaBonte, where more than 200 comrades from the 46<sup>th</sup> MP Company and family members bore witness to this special event. Napoleon LaBonte, Jr., LaBonte's grandfather, a World War II veteran, also traveled more than 400 miles from Powers, Mich., to watch his grandson receive his Purple Heart.

LaBonte was joined on the field for the presentation by his unit commander, Capt. Ken Middaugh, and four other Soldiers, Sgt. Kricia Brown, Spc. James Potter, Sgt. Christopher Bates and Cpl. Lance Swartzendruber, who were with him and helped save his life when the vehicle was attacked.

Once he took his place on the field, LaBonte rendered a salute to Col. James Anderson, the Assistant Adjutant General- Army for the state of Michigan, who was there to present LaBonte his Purple Heart. The ovation was thunderous when Anderson knelt down to pin the Purple Heart onto LaBonte's chest.

Though the game was only half over, the victorious outcry that flared across the stadium when LaBonte thrust his arms in the air as though he had just conquered the world, may have been the inspiration that led to the Lions 23-16 win over Tampa that day.



Photo courtesy of Detroit Lions Organization  
Sgt. Philip LaBonte is escorted onto the Ford Field in Detroit, Mich., by his parents, Debbie and Pat LaBonte, during the third quarter of the Detroit Lions - Tampa Bay Buccaneers game on Oct. 21, 2007. LaBonte was awarded the Purple Heart for his combat service in Baghdad, Iraq, which led to the loss of both his legs and his left eye. He was honored as part of the Lions Hometown Heroes program.



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# Sarge stands at Selfridge thanks to Detroit Tigers' pitcher

By Donna Hibbard

Detroit Tigers' pitcher, Jeremy Bonderman was searching for a special way to honor the U.S. military when he crossed paths with "Sarge."

Sarge was part of nearly 100 artist-decorated tiger sculptures on display throughout the streets of metro-Detroit last April through June. The TigerTown display raised more than a quarter million dollars for five local children's charities, including the Detroit Tigers' Foundation.

Bonderman and his wife, Amber, served as co-chairs of TigerTown and purchased Sarge when TigerTown ended with intentions of donating the tiger statue to Selfridge Air National Guard Base as a way of saying thank you to all our military men and women.

"My grandfather was retired Air Force and I have a couple of uncles that are retired," said Bonderman. "I just thought it would be nice to bid for it (Sarge) and give back to the community through charity."

Sarge currently resides at Selfridge in front of base operations, (building 50) but he plans to travel around the installation to various high-traffic facilities to spend time with all the Airmen, Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, and Coast Guardsmen stationed at Selfridge.



Photo by Guiseppe Messina

Sarge the Tiger stands in front of base operations at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. The statue was donated to the installation by Detroit Tigers' pitcher Jeremy Bonderman and his wife, Amber, who purchased it during a children's charity event last spring in Detroit.

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## Michigan Army Guard participants place 3rd at Army 10-Miler



Photo courtesy of Capt. Robert Lombard

Seven Michigan Army National Guard Soldiers competed in the 23rd Annual Army 10-Miler on Oct. 7, 2007 in Washington, D.C. The team placed 3rd out of 20 other National Guard teams.

By Capt. Robert Lombard

Seven Soldiers from the Michigan Army National Guard recently traveled to Washington D.C. and competed in the 23rd Annual Army 10-Miler on Oct. 7, 2007. Despite high heat and humidity, the Camp Grayling Morale Welfare and Recreation team earned 3rd place out of 20 other National Guard teams. More than 17,600 military and civilian runners ran the course as it wound its way through our nation's capitol as part of the largest ten mile race in the country. The race began and ended at the Pentagon.

Neophyte runners from Michigan who competed in this year's race were Sgt. Ron Hart of Camp Grayling, Sgt. 1st Class Misty Woltuis, 272nd Regional Support Group, Jackson, Mich., and Sgt. Kevin Hopkins, Joint Force Headquarters, Lansing, Mich. Veteran 10-Miler runners included Sgt. Sharon Whitcher and Capt. Robert Lombard, both from Camp Grayling, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jessica Ulrey, Joint Force Headquarters, and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Richard Burcham from 3-238th GSAB in Grand Ledge. This was the sixth race for Burcham, fifth for Lombard, and the second for Whitcher and Ulrey.

# Michigan Army National Guard's Soldiers of the Year



## *Warrant Officer of the Year*

### **Chief Warrant Officer 2 Debra Salters**

Recruiting and Retention Command

Chief Warrant Officer Salters has been a member of the Michigan Army National Guard since 1986. She is currently the Warrant Officer Accessions Manager for the Recruiting and Retention Command in Lansing, Mich. She has been a member of the Officer Recruiting Team since August 2005.



## *Recruiting NCOIC of the Year*

### **Master Sgt. Jason Wesaw**

Recruiting and Retention Command

Master Sgt. Wesaw has spent 18 years in the military with five years as an Active Guard/Reserve member of the Michigan Army National Guard. He is currently assigned to Recruiting and Retention Command in Wyoming, Mich.



## *Recruiter of the Year*

### **Sgt. 1st Class David Stafford**

Recruiting and Retention Command

Sgt. 1st Class Stafford has been an Active Guard/Reserve member of the Michigan Army National Guard for six years. He has been assigned to Recruiting and Retention Command for three years serving at the Grand Valley Armory in Wyoming, Mich.



## *Stewart Medal*

### **Staff Sgt. Michael Soulliere**

46th Military Police Command

Staff Sgt. Soulliere has been a member of the Michigan Army National Guard for eight years. He has been with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 46th Military Police Command in Lansing, Mich., since 2004.

# Michigan Air National Guard's Airmen of the Year



***NCO of the Year***  
**Technical Sgt. Mark Hubbart**  
110th Fighter Wing



***Honor Guard Member***  
**Staff Sgt. Jody Nitz**  
127th Wing



***Recruiter of the Year***  
**Master Sgt. Jutta Parks**  
127th Wing

THE AIRMAN'S CREED

I am an American airman.  
I am a warrior.  
I have answered my nation's call.

I am an American airman.  
My mission is to fly, fight, and win.  
I am faithful to a proud heritage,  
a tradition of honor,  
and a legacy of valor.

I am an American airman,  
guardian of freedom and justice,  
my nation's sword and shield,  
its sentry and avenger.  
I defend my country with my life.

I am an American airman:  
wingman, leader, warrior.  
I will never leave an airman behind,  
I will never falter,  
and I will not fail.



***Senior NCO of the Year***  
**Master Sgt. Donald Casemore**  
Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center



***Airman of the Year***  
**Senior Airman Michael**  
110th Fighter Wing



***1st Sergeant of the Year***  
**Master Sgt. Jeanne LaHaie**  
110th Fighter Wing

# STARBASE secures second location in southwest Michigan

By Staff Sgt. Gabriel Morse

On Oct. 12, 2007, STARBASE-Battle Creek received a very important message. "STARBASE you are cleared for landing!"

Michigan's second STARBASE facility - a hands-on math, science, technology, and substance prevention program officially opened the hatch to a whole new galaxy for at risk students throughout the southwest region of Michigan, with a ribbon cutting ceremony at its newly renovated military facility in Battle Creek, Mich.

According to Lt. Col. Bruce Medaugh, the new location's lead teacher, opening a second location benefits the state by expanding the number of children who are able to participate.

Hosted by 110th Fighter Wing Commander Col. Roger Seidel and Vice Commander Col. David Augustine, dignitaries in attendance at the ribbon cutting included Congressman Tim Walberg, State Representative Lorence Wenke, Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler and Assistant Adjutant General for Air Brig. Gen. Richard Elliot, Battle Creek Mayor John Godfrey and Springfield Mayor Susan Anderson.

"STARBASE-Battle Creek exists," said Medaugh, "because of the cooperation and support of leaders within the military and political communities."

STARBASE mother and local educator Barbara Koscak said, "I have assisted with 40 out of the 54 sites and have never seen as much support and effort from the leadership."

Founded in 1989 at Selfridge Air National Guard Base by Koscak, retired Brig. Gen. David T. Arendts, former 127th Fighter Wing commander, Lt. Col. Richard "Rico" Racosky, former 107th Fighter Squadron F-16 pilot, and Rick Simms, a college student at Wayne State University, the STARBASE program reached more than 2,000 children from the greater Detroit tri-county area its first year.



Photos courtesy of STARBASE-Battle Creek  
Students of Valley View Elementary School in Battle Creek, Mich. assist (from left to right) Battle Creek Vice Commander Col. David Augustine, The Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler, Springfield Mayor Susan Anderson, U.S. Rep. Timothy Walberg, Battle Creek Mayor John Godfrey and Rep. Lawrence Wenke with cutting the ribbon on Oct. 12, 2007 during the STARBASE-Battle Creek ribbon cutting.



Photos courtesy of STARBASE-Battle Creek  
Armed with scissors, students of Valley View Elementary School in Battle Creek, Mich. and (from left to right) Rep. Lawrence Wenke, STARBASE instructor Darrick Gregory, Wing Commander Col. Rodger Seidel and Valley View Elementary School teacher Sue Liston snip away during the STARBASE-Battle Creek ribbon cutting.

Only intended to reach 200 students during its maiden voyage, it was aided by nearly 70 military volunteers, a W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant, and federal funding due to the efforts of Michigan Senator Carl Levin and Georgia Senator Sam Nunn.

Since its inception, 54 STARBASE programs have launched across the United States and Puerto Rico, to benefit thousands of fifth and sixth grade students. Based on principles of teamwork, self respect and goal setting, its curriculum includes Properties and States of Matter, Properties of Air, Newton's Laws of Motion, Four Forces of Flight, and Bernoulli's Principle.

STARBASE-Battle Creek and its team look forward to igniting the boosters with a full class schedule beginning in January 2008. Designed around hands-on, one-on-one interaction with military personnel, facilities, and aircraft such as the F-16, KC-135, and C-130, it will assist Michigan students to develop positive attitudes, career motivation, and explore new opportunities.

# Kapisa Police Mentor Team in action



Michigan Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Craig Pulver mentors Afghan National Police prior to conducting a joint patrol in Tagabe Valley, Afghanistan on Sept. 5, 2007.

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class James Downen

The Kapisa Police Mentor Team (PMT) has the mission to help the Afghan National Police (ANP) assume its duties of providing law enforcement services and to enable the ANP to support the Afghan National Army against the Anti-Government Elements (AGE) that threaten the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

The Kapisa PMT is comprised of police mentors and a security force element from Army National Guard units around the United States commanded by Michigan ARNG Lt. Col. Shawn Harris.

Vermont ARNG Staff Sgt. Ronny Burt, a member of the Kapisa PMT, describes the role of the ANP in Afghanistan's National Defense. "The ANP must be police and soldiers," said Burt. "They have a police role and a combat role in the fight against the AGE. The Afghanistan government wants the ANP to conduct searches of property and homes of Afghan citizens using law enforcement procedures to guarantee their constitutional rights when there is a need for sweeps during combat operations," he said.

Burt said challenges the ANP face in their development are that the organization is only a year old and many are illiterate and lack proper training. "However, when they get their act together, the ANP are effective in gathering local intelligence that we've been able to use to apprehend AGE suspects," said Burt.

The Kapisa PMT accompanies their ANP counterparts on combat operations and sweeps. Kapisa PMT member

Michigan ARNG Sgt. 1st Class Craig Pulver, accompanied a patrol in Tagabe Valley with an ANP squad on Sept 5, 2007. The mission was to show presence to the populace and search for AGE in the valley.

Pulver greeted and shook hands with every Afghan citizen he encountered and by the end of the patrol, his ANP counterparts began doing the same. "We get our best leads on AGE suspects from contact with the community," said Pulver. "The vital part of mentoring our ANP counterparts is to show them the importance of good relations with the people they serve. The effective ANP are those who conscientiously try to better their country," he said.

Burt and Pulver recognize the ANP have much to learn and more professional development to achieve before they are ready to assume national law enforcement duties. Burt emphasized again that "the ANP are only a year old as a force. It will take time for them to develop the professionalism they need to do their job properly."

The PMT Soldiers expressed what they expect to happen at the conclusion of their respective missions. Burt said, "I'd like to leave Afghanistan knowing that the Afghans in the valleys I've worked in have full confidence in their police to provide security in their communities."

Pulver said "I want to feel we made a difference in Afghanistan. I believe in what we're doing here. Sometimes it can be frustrating, three steps forward, and one back, but the Afghan people do want to go forward."

# Hart's Lake procurement a win-win-win for everyone

By Spc. LaKeshia Tryon

It is not often that all sides in a business transaction get what they want without sacrifice. Yet, efforts to preserve approximately 418 acres surrounding Hart's Lake in Battle Creek, Mich., can only be described as a win-win-win situation for all involved.

The Hart's Lake procurement project began nearly two and a half years ago when it was first brought to the attention of the Michigan Department of Military Veteran's Affairs Environmental Division. It was noted that if economic development were to take place around that area it would further encroach, or intrude, on training missions at Fort Custer Training Center (FCTC) in Augusta, Mich.

On average 127,485 man-days of training occur on FCTC lands and Michelle Richards, a natural resources specialist at the FCTC Environmental office discovered FCTC was already being encroached upon and had been since the military sold the land in the 1970s.

"The use of Range 1 was radically restricted," said Environmental Division Chief Greg Huntington, "because of unavailable area for additional surface danger zones which eliminated the use of the M-60T and M-249 semi-automatic weapon (SAW). Also, ranges 2, 3 and 4 were affected omitting M-16 and SAW training on those ranges."

Since there is inadequate space for full operation on those ranges, Richards estimated, "approximately 1,200 man-days of training were being lost annually. Soldiers would in-turn have to travel a minimum additional 250 miles to Camp Grayling to complete this training which caused cost and time constraints to Soldiers and units."

In December 2005, the Michigan Army National Guard submitted a proposal to National Guard Bureau seeking funds for the Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program. The program authorizes federal Department

of Defense funds to be utilized to help purchase buffer zones around training sites. ACUB is a tool that addresses encroachment and achieves conservation objectives by proactively addressing encroachment that causes costly workarounds or compromises training realism. The program is such that the military must partner with a third party entity to hold a conservation easement and/or property title.

The Michigan Army National Guard proposed to create a partnership with FCTC, Calhoun Conservation District, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy and Potawatomi Resource Conservation and Development Region to prevent incompatible development to the Hart's Lake property that could further restrict training. As a result of the proposal, ACUB funded \$1 million to the Hart's Lake purchase.

The property was appraised at \$3.56 million during negotiations with Battle Creek Unlimited, who was the current property owner. With the \$1 million in hand from ACUB, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation matched the Army's funds.

Unable to attain the additional \$1.56 million, an offer was made and agreed upon to buy the lower two-thirds of the property with an option to purchase the last portion within two years under a restrictive covenant. The Calhoun Conservation District will hold the title to the property and monitor the conservation easement.

In the end, according to Huntington, it was a win-win-win situation. "The Army gets to continue its training, the city got money to develop other land and [Hart's Lake] is protected and preserved for citizens to use," said Huntington.

---

## A Fond Farewell

By Staff Sgt. Gabriel Morse

The 110th Fighter Wing waved a momentary goodbye to approximately 240 members of its team as they deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom for about two months on the evening of Nov. 6, 2007.

According to the Battle Creek Air Guard spokesman, Maj. Robert DeCoster, it is the largest deployment from the 110th Fighter Wing in approximately four years, and their last deployment from Battle Creek with the upgraded A-10C's.

During this deployment 110th Fighter Wing personnel, equipment and aircraft will integrate with another unit from Baltimore, Md. already in theater. The 110th Fighter Wing's A-10C's were flown over at different intervals, and refueled midair.

According to DeCoster, the members of the 110th Fighter Wing did an exceptional job not only accepting

this deployment, but in upgrading their aircraft, despite the knowledge that the A-10C's will be permanently leaving Battle Creek sometime early in 2009.



Photo by Master Sgt. Dale Atkins  
Members of the 110th Fighter Wing wave to family and friends as they board the aircraft enroute to Iraq on Nov. 6 2007, at the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base.

# We're all in this together

## 177th MP Brigade receives combat patch

Story and photo by Pfc. Michael May

The mood was solemn as members of Headquarters Company, 177th Military Police Brigade from Taylor, Mich., bowed their heads in silence, during a ceremony held in front of the brigade headquarters, Camp Victory, Iraq in remembrance of those who died during the terror attacks against the United States on Sept. 11, 2001.

After a moment of silence and an inspiring invocation by Chaplain Lt. Col. Robert Bierenga, 177th MP Brigade Commander, Brig. Gen. Michael Nevin, asked his Soldiers to remember why they deployed. The attack was meant to make Americans live in fear.

"We're here so our children will not grow up in fear," said Nevin.

Following Nevin's words to the troops each unit member was given a combat patch, effectively solidifying Nevin's words and the Soldiers' part in fighting terrorism abroad.

"It's always good to reflect on why we are here and what we are fighting for," said 1st Lt. Corissa Barton, administration officer. "Having the ceremonies together reiterates the fact that we are here to do a job, and we won't stop until the mission is complete."

Nevin personally put a patch on each Soldier's shoulder. He took thanked each one, and shook their hand, saying, "Remember, we're all in this together."



Maj. Daniel L. Smith, 177th Military Police Brigade, proudly receives a combat patch from Brig. Gen. Michael R. Nevin, commander of the 177th Military Police Brigade.

Master Sgt. Patricia A. Stubbins, administration non commissioned officer in charge, said it was nice that Nevin took the time to place the patch on each of them, and that it showed his focus on the well-being of the individual Soldier.

Barton added, "It shows his commitment to accomplishing the mission and getting each and everyone of us home safe."

---

## Iraqi children receive charitable items courtesy of 177th MP Brigade

By Spc. Brian Owens

As the global war on terrorism continues to affect the lives of American children whose family members may be deployed in support of the war, it is easy to overlook the fact that the war also has an adverse affect on children living in the midst of the terror.

The 177th Military Police Brigade in conjunction with Task Force 300 realized the poverty and dangerous conditions of the city that Iraqi children face and are now preparing to carry out a mission to assist children in Baghdad who have been affected by the war.



Photo courtesy of Spc. Brian Owens  
Spc. Brian Owens, 177th Military Police Brigade, delivers donated toys and supplies to Iraqi families.

The 177th, along with the help from organizations on the home front have made this endeavor a priority and are providing basic items to these children. They provide items such as school supplies, toys, coloring books, stuffed animals, clothes, hygiene products and baby care items.

Saint Kenneth's Catholic Church in Plymouth Township, Mich., held a drive to collect the necessary school supplies to send to Iraq. The church collected 75 boxes full of supplies. This is only one example of the many heartwarming support projects received from home.

# CSMS bridges gaps in workforce with ISO certification

By Maj. Scott Meyers

Within the walls of the Combined Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS), you will find dedicated employees following the philosophy; “challenge business as usual.” The CSMS believes that flexibility and continuous improvement are the key elements to keeping its customers and community satisfied. The benefits intrinsic to this mode of thinking are perpetual; however, the road to maintaining this philosophy is challenged.

CSMS’ employees are proud to announce the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001: 2000 certification by Perry Johnson Registrars.

The certification is evidence that an affective total quality management system is in place. This system will offer consistency and continuous improvement for our customers who defend the nation’s freedoms. The system provides empowerment for change and operational input for employees. There is no greater sense of accomplishment than knowing your ideas make a difference.

The decision to seek registration came naturally, based on the business philosophy stated above. Gaps between the civilian and government work forces at the CSMS needed to be bridged. Examples are seen across the United States

of this bridge, and Michigan deserves to be front-runners.

The certification was challenging. It became evident early on that the civilian and military workforces have typically operated much differently. Terminology and the added regulatory bodies made the mission very difficult to achieve.

However, determination remained immense and the mission was accomplished. The CSMS’ Quality Steering Committee and employees created a model quality system for the entire federal workforce to seek. CSMS is proud to have led the way, and look forward to sharing the benefits with the community.

This accomplishment is an advancement of a true equal opportunity employer. It is an opportunity in which national contracts can be sought after and achieved. The increased competitiveness in the national theatre will likely add quality high-paying jobs that have increased security, policies that are driven by personal values, exuberant business culture, and empowerment for the employees. These jobs will benefit the economic value and have a positive impact on Michigan.

The CSMS will continue to find ways to lead by example. Its drive remains passionate as it continues to work for Michigan and the nation. A sense of social responsibility has only been increased by the CSMS’ accomplishments, and it will continue to improve for customers.



The Combined Support Maintenance Shop Quality Steering Committee for the International Organization for Standardization stands holding an ISO certified banner to be displayed at the CSMS.

---

## Toys continued

Husken never expected anything more than just a few donations of stuffed animals for little girls and soccer balls for boys.

Ewing and Thorn began networking with all of their contacts to garner support for this new campaign. In just a matter of weeks, a non profit corporation was established; there was a web site, corporate sponsorship and a lofty goal of \$10,000. In what seemed a blink of an eye Toys for Troops was born.

The Toys for Troops campaign was promoted via a variety of media outlets. There were radio interviews,

newspaper stories and emails that helped spread the story widely and rapidly. Quick responses of support were received from all around the United States.

In a brief span of four months, Toys for Troops went from inception to reaching the goal of \$10,000. By late August, nearly 50 boxes of brand new stuffed animals arrived at Forward Operating Base Rustamayah, Baghdad.

The toys were quickly delivered to delighted children throughout Baghdad.

The Toys for Troops campaign was made possible because Ewing and Thorn wanted to know how they could help. They asked and now the world knows.

**NEW!**

# G-RAP-O

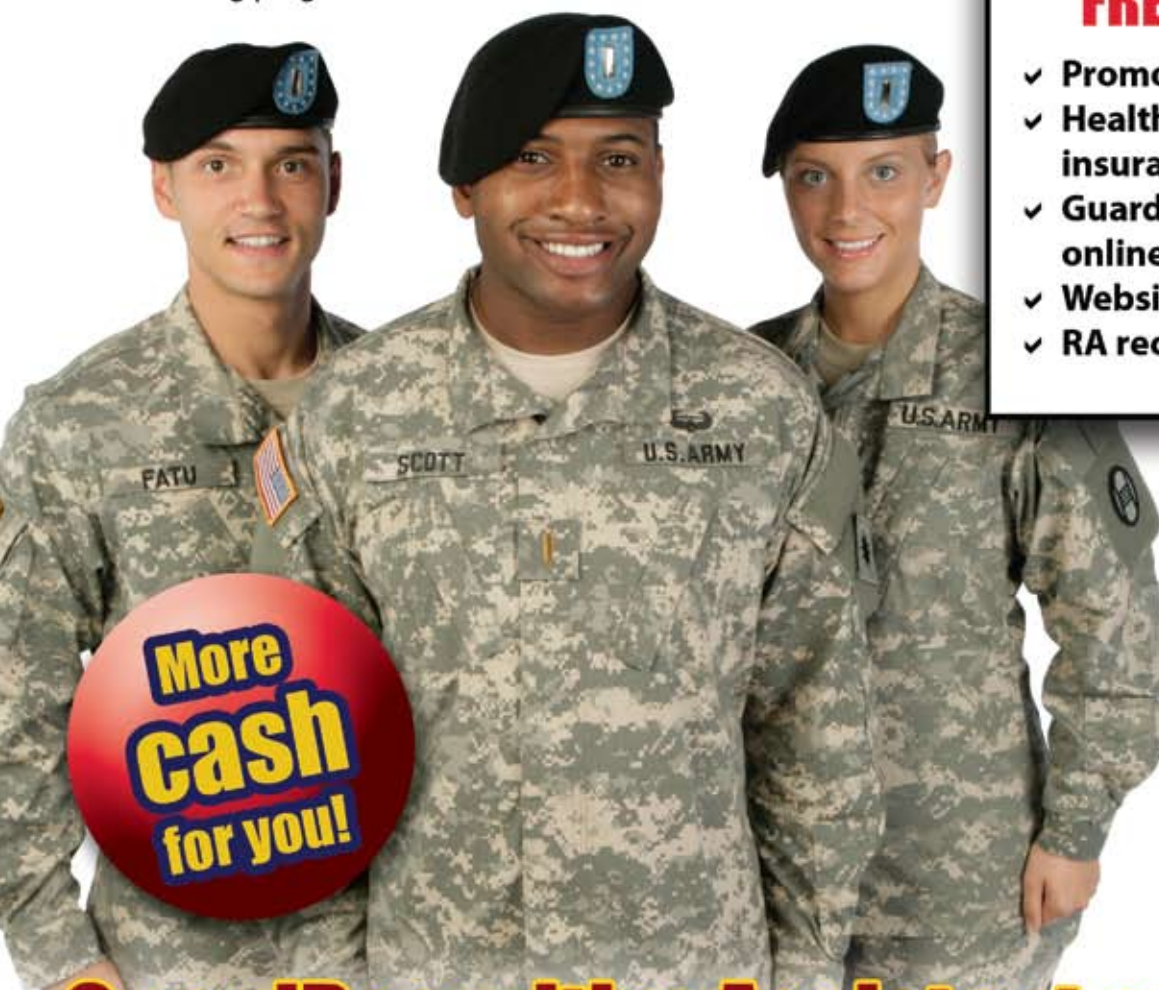
**1 Enlistment** <sup>Up to</sup> **= \$8,500.00**

Help build the Officer Corps in Michigan while earning additional income by identifying well-qualified men and women for service in the Army National Guard.

Recruiting Assistants that participate in the Guard Recruiting Assistant Program for Officers (G-RAP-O) can earn up to **\$8,500** for each new Officer or Warrant Officer enlistment or for each prior service member enlisting into the Direct Commission Program. You may know medical students, seminarians, lawyers, dentists or Enlisted Soldiers who, once trained, would excel in this leadership role. Sign up today to take advantage of this *new* and exciting program!

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The Guard Recruiting Assistant Program is not created or administered by the Army National Guard or Air National Guard.

# G-RAP-O = More Cash for YOU!

By Keith Kawasaki

Everyone knows Guard Recruiting Assistant Program (G-RAP) is a huge success. It garners thousands of new Soldiers, and thousands of dollars for the existing force hitting the streets to build the team. Well, get ready to hit it double time with the latest innovation in G-RAP (and military acronyms): G-RAP-O.

G-RAP-O promises up to \$8,500 for select officer recruits; hence the extended 'O' to the acronym.

"G-RAP-O was considered some time ago when G-RAP was first developed," Lt. Col. John Williams, chief, Officer Strength Maintenance Branch of the Army National Guard (ARNG), tells *GX* magazine. "However, it was important to ensure that G-RAP would be successful," he said.

"Since G-RAP is so successful, the decision was made by our leadership to expand into the officer market. The Officer Strength Force does an incredible job accessing officers into the ARNG, but they cannot be everywhere, at all times," said Williams.

## What's the payout\*?

**OCS/Basic Branch = \$3,000**

**Warrant Officer = \$3,000**

**Medical/Dental Students = \$3,500**

**JAG Professionals = \$4,000**

**Nursing Professionals/Students = \$4,500**

**Chaplains = \$5,000**

**Doctors/Dentists = \$7,500**

**\*An additional \$1000 may be available for recruiting Prior Service Officers**

### How can you get involved?

If you're already participating in G-RAP as a Recruiting Assistant (RA), then you pretty much know the drill. G-RAP-O is open to current RAs, traditional M-Day officers, enlisted personnel and ARNG retirees. If this is all new to you, talk with a recruiter or visit [GuardRecruitingAssistant.com](http://GuardRecruitingAssistant.com) and get signed up as an RA in your area.

Here are a few tips in the meantime:

**1. Network, network, network.** Everyone you meet is a great contact that could lead to a potential recruit. For this particular version of the program, keep an eye out for officers who have left the service and are considering getting back in. If your potential officer is Basic Officer Course qualified, you will get an additional reward of \$1,000.

**2. Know what's open.** Keep an eye on spots opening up in your unit. Some primary occupational specialties filled by Direct Commission-Basic Branch or a Specialty Branch can be rewarded through G-RAP-O. If you can score someone a direct commission, you get a portion of the big prize upon verified commission.

**3. Send 'em back to school.** Encourage your fellow Soldiers to check out Officer Candidate School and Warrant Officer Candidate School.

"This translates into increased readiness for the unit," said Williams, "helping prepare [your] unit to accomplish [your] mission." And, you rake in rewards through each step of their processing through the schools.

## Tips for Finding Candidates

- For Basic Branch Officer Candidates to qualify for this program, Soldiers must have already been enlisted or are currently enlisted in the armed forces.
- When looking for Basic Branch Officers, try talking to Prior Service Soldiers or current members of the National Guard.
- When looking for Direct Commission Appointees, speak to doctors, lawyers, nurses and chaplains; either already established in their vocation or currently studying in that field.
- If you have any questions regarding the G-RAP-O program, its payouts or how to sign up, please contact Docupak, Inc. at 866-566-2472 or visit the web address below.

### What does the future hold?

According to Williams, flexibility is what the future holds for this program.

"We will monitor and measure the return on investment and make appropriate adjustments," said Williams. "The demands of the ARNG are constantly changing and we may need to make adjustments to properly position our force to respond to the mission as it evolves."

For more details, visit [GuardRecruitingAssistant.com/officer](http://GuardRecruitingAssistant.com/officer).

*Story and graphics courtesy of GX: The Guard Experience magazine, [www.GXonline.com](http://www.GXonline.com).*

# Refuelers keep southwest border aviation in the sky

Story and photo by Sgt. Benjamin Cossel

It is almost universally agreed that with the assistance of aviation assets from the National Guard, success of air operations for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has dramatically increased since the beginning of Operation Jump Start (OJS).

Unseen by the many, who only observe the OH-58 Kiowas and UH-60 Black Hawks soaring through the sky, is a divergent cast of supporting characters ranging from mechanics to crew chiefs, test pilots to refuelers.

It's bright and early on the morning of Sept. 8 as Task Force Raven Army Warrant Officer Candidate Steven Ernst, of Anchorage, Alaska, with Company E, 1-207th Aviation Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard gathers his crew in preparation for a long day ahead.

Ernst and his team are petroleum, oil, and lubrication specialists, or refuelers, working the daily Forward Ammunition and Refueling Points (FARP).

"Some of our sites are constantly manned - where we push out teams to the locations to be on-ground for a seven-day rotation," said Ernst. "And some sites, like those we're going to now, we drive out every day to check the quality and quantity level of the fuel and to make sure the TPU [tank pump unit] is full."

Located at the Army Aviation Support Facilities, Silver Bell Army Heliport in Marana, Ariz., the Ajo CBP Border Patrol station is the first, and closest at 145 miles away, of the crews several stops for the day. Upon arrival, the team of three quickly get to work pulling and testing a fuel sample, yanking hoses from the M985 Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck (HEMTT) to hook up to the TPU.

"Army regulations say that fuel can be no more than 10 parts per million water," said Michigan Army National Guard Spc. John Mix, from Company E, 1-238th Aviation Regiment attached to OJS-Arizona, TF Raven.

"We try to shoot for under 2 parts per million," said Mix, a resident of Hastings, Mich.

Siphoning out a sample bottle full of fuel, Mix heads over to a machine that analyzes the sample. After a few minutes he yells back "Under 1 ppm!" indicating to Ernst and Arizona Army National Guard Sgt. Daniel Lopez, to begin filling the TPU.

"There are a lot of things that could cause water in the fuel mixture," said Mix noting that rain and condensation in the fuel tank are the most common culprits.

Just as the team gets the first TPU filled, a Kiowa crests a hilltop, coming down for a landing. Like clockwork, Ernst, Lopez and Mix don their protective equipment and standby.



Finished refueling an OH-58 Kiowa, Sept. 8, 2007 Michigan Army National Guard Spc. John Mix (left) and Alaska Army National Guard Warrant Officer Candidate Steven Ernst, both attached to Operation Jump Start – Arizona, Task Force Tucson, head back to finish refueling tank pump units at the Forward Ammunition and Refueling Point at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Border Patrol station in Ajo, Ariz.

“Kiowas are really fun and quick to refuel,” said Ernst noting that compared to the up-to 15 minutes it can take to refuel a Black Hawk, Kiowas are much easier at only 5-6 minutes on average.

Testing fuel samples, refilling helicopters and the various other tasks that fill the days all add up to a rewarding experience each Soldier will take back to their home units.

“Working in Arizona for OJS has been a phenomenal training experience,” said Ernst. “Members from my unit in Alaska came down here before they deployed to Afghanistan and they are constantly emailing me, telling me that the experience they gained here, in Arizona, has been a tremendous asset to them there.”

Mix agreed, “Being on OJS has definitely been great from a training and learning perspective. I know I’ll go home and be able to mentor my younger Soldiers with all the experience I’ve gained here.”

Mix and Ernst said that not only does the day-to-day repetition of doing their job reinforce good habits, but with the wide breadth of experience all the different Soldiers

and Airmen bring to TF Raven, tips and tricks of the job are freely traded.

“There are so many guys here who have so much know-how doing this job,” said Ernst. “And they pass on those years of knowledge to the younger troops, knowledge that would have taken them years to learn.”

“We conduct exit interviews on all our rotating troops,” said Ernst, “and every single one of them has said the same thing – this has been one of the best experiences of their military career.”

Refueled, the Kiowa takes back to the air to perform its mission of spotting undocumented aliens and protecting the Southwestern border. The Soldiers of the refueling team get back to the business of filling the second TPU.

Ernst, soon on his way to warrant officer school to become a pilot, takes a special joy in his mission making sure aircraft of TF Raven have fuel.

“I hope to fly those birds one day,” he said. “And working out here, I get a real appreciation for all the hard work these guys put into making sure the pilots can do their job.”

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## First Freedom Hunt fun for all fifteen

By Sandy Nordmark

Fifteen wheel-chair bound deer hunters spent the weekend of Oct. 19-21, 2007 as guests of the Fort Custer Training Center’s (FCTC) Army National Guard Base, site of the first annual Freedom Hunt for the disabled. By all accounts, this special hunting opportunity was a great success.

To participate in the hunt, hunters were required to be in possession of a current year Michigan deer hunting license, plus a valid DNR certificate showing they were eligible to hunt from a standing vehicle, due to a permanent disability.

Most of the applicants selected to take part in this inaugural event arrived at the base Friday evening, for a banquet followed by welcoming addresses from Col. James Anderson, assistant adjutant general for Army, Lt. Col. Dennis Nadrasik, FCTC post commander; and Greg Huntington, chief of the Michigan Army National Guard Environmental Division.



Jonathen Edgerly, Mark Hess and Richard Page show off their big catch on Oct. 20, 2007 at Fort Custer Training Center.

Photo by Tony Snyder

A surprise awarding of the Adjutant General’s Coin of Excellence by Anderson was made to Jonathan Edgerly,

*(Story continued on page 19- Freedom Hunt)*

# Adopt-a-Soldier phase two complete

Story and photos by Spc. Lisa Bates

Patriotism and appreciation were the themes of the day. "Those of us at home need to keep the men and women on the frontlines in our thoughts everyday," said Adrian resident Jody Prime.

On Sept. 22, 2007, the 156th Network Signal Company in Adrian, Mich., along with the help of several sponsors and many volunteers, were able to complete the second phase of their Adopt-a-Soldier program at the Adrian armory.

The event, coordinated by 156th supply sergeant, Staff Sgt. Larry Bedolla, was a chance for the community to show their support and appreciation for deployed service members. "We forget they are out there for us, this is just a way of letting them know how much we appreciate all they do for us," said Prime.

Phase one of the program kicked off in August when members of the 156th and local radio station personalities spent the night in a tent at the armory collecting donated items for the care packages. Donated items included toiletries, magazines, sporting goods and other items purchased by sponsors and community members. The armory provided monetary donations to help with shipping costs, so everyone could afford to send a package and show support.

During phase two, community members received a box, a Soldier's names, and a list of needed items. 156th began collecting names of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines in March 2007, ending with a total of 136 names of deployed service members.

The streets were blocked off for a drive-thru box pickup, however many residents opted to stay and join the fun. A bungee race, rock climbing wall, weapons display, a full armored HUMVEE, and a bake sale hosted by the Family Readiness group were just a few of the many attractions at the armory that day.

WABJ/WQTE Friends Communications, a local radio station that supported the project from the start, broadcast live



Participants carefully choose donated items to pack in their care packages during the Adopt-a-Soldier program on Sept. 22, 2007 in Adrian, Mich.

from the armory and local photographer Jean Christopher handed out coupons to families of deployed Soldiers good for a free family portrait to send to their loved one. Music and entertainment were provided by DJ Rudy Flores and local singing sensations Pat Dunn and Donny H.

Dunn said he dedicated his time and performance to the program because, "I want my nine-year-old daughter to understand why I'm so grateful to these people." When asked what message he would send the troops Dunn replied, "Can you write THANK YOU big enough?"

Beginning at 5 a.m. and working past the 8 p.m. cut-off time, made it a very long day for volunteers.

"Being here all day was a small price to pay for what [Soldiers] are doing for us over there," said Spc. Paul Martinez, 156th Network Signal Company.

"Adrian is such a giving community," said Capt. Brian Langlois, 156th commander. With more than 1,000 boxes picked up during this year's event he said, "We couldn't have asked for a better turnout."

Langlois thanked everyone who took the time to make this event possible. "Your support brightened the day of a Soldier," he said.

The Adopt-a-Soldier program will be an annual affair, with next year's event being planned for mid-September.

"We will do this once a year until we get all the Michigan Soldiers home," declared Staff Sgt. Bedolla.



Staff Sgt. Larry Bedolla demonstrates the M-19 Grenade Launcher to local residents attending phase two of the Adopt-a-Soldier program.

## Freedom Hunt continued



Photo courtesy of Jonathan Edgerly

Participants and volunteers of the first Freedom Hunt for disabled hunters gather for a photo before beginning their weekend hunting on the grounds of Fort Custer Training Center.

FCTC Natural Resource Analyst in recognition of his outstanding effort in organizing and directing the activities that ultimately led to the scheduled hunt.

Organizing the Freedom Hunt involved several organizations and cooperation from many partners, donors, and volunteers. A steering committee formed in 2006 and headed by Edgerly had representatives from the National Wild Turkey Federation; Whitetails Unlimited; Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Outdoors Without Limits; and the Fort Custer Deer Hunt Group Leaders.

“It was great to have so many different organizations uniting for a very worthy common cause,” said Edgerly. “We could not have accomplished the hunt without them.”

Valuable support came from the state office of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, as well as FCTC base command, which provided overnight accommodations on the base for the hunters and volunteer assistants.

An unexpected donation of portable pop-up hunting blinds from Eastman Outdoors of Flushing, Michigan, resulted from an interesting National Guard connection. Col. Michael Stone, deputy commander of the 177th Military Police Brigade in Iraq, also an employee of Eastman Outdoors, heard about the Freedom Hunt and need for donations.

Stone emailed Edgerly for additional information. Shortly thereafter, a semi-truck arrived at FCTC delivering 25 of the highly prized blinds. While most of the blinds will be held for use during future hunts, five of them were awarded during a raffle drawing conducted as part of the banquet proceedings, to the delight of the happy recipients.

All meals, snacks, lodging and on-base transportation were provided free of charge, thanks to the generosity of the many cooperating partners. Volunteers were teamed with each hunter to assist them throughout the weekend with whatever needs arose. Five hunters harvested deer, with all hunters reporting having seen deer. The weather was sunny and mild, the enthusiasm and appreciation for the Freedom Hunt agenda and accommodations was unanimous.

Hunters and volunteers agreed that the weekend was an outstanding success and they look forward to opportunities to participate in future Freedom Hunts.



Photo courtesy of Jonathan Edgerly  
Freedom Hunt participants pause for a snapshot with their hard-earned trophy loaded in the truck.

# Michigan Army and Air National Guard Promotions

From Sept. 8, 2007 through Nov. 15, 2007

## Air

### Lt. Col.

Bowden, Timothy R.  
Kiafoulis, Vasilios S.  
Maltbie, Sean C.  
Reeder, Andrew E.  
Roberts, James A.  
Serrels, Deyo D.

### Maj.

Carlin, Andrea L.  
Collins, Timothy J.  
Hyatt, Andrew B.  
Meyers, Josiah L.

### Capt.

Davenport, Donald W.  
Hoover, Clinton R.  
Quintero, Zohe L.  
Schipper, Ryan M.  
Toll, Kevin R.

### 1st Lt.

Poston, Abraham J.

### 2nd Lt.

Luts, Lindsey D.  
Macmillan, Deborah A.  
Stimson, Deborah A.

### Senior Master Sgt.

Keely, Barry A.

Sommer, Steven J.

### Master Sgt.

Asselin, Christopher D.  
Baines, Douglas E.  
Johnson, Steven J.  
Letke, David W.

### Technical Sgt.

Anzano, Earl F.  
Blumke, Derek J.  
Cassada, Donald J.  
Gilkerson, Amanda J.  
Halley, Allen L.  
Heinz, Corey J.  
Hiaeshutter, Denae M.  
Johnson, Allen R.  
Mongeon, Denae M.  
Stewart, Brian W.  
Wagster, Robert E.  
Weinberg, Chad A.

### Staff Sgt.

Abusaif, Yazan A.  
Beckman, Robert A.  
Desser, Jennifer R.  
Fisher, Richard A.  
Foy, Dandrea R.  
Foy, Dandrea R.  
Franks, Barbara M.  
Haywood, Ryan J.  
Herrada, Veronica L.  
Johnson, Andrew S.  
Kinstle, Thomas M.  
Kuhlmann, Darren J.  
Kunik, Nathan M.  
Macdonald, Bradley J.  
Martin, John Q.

Mikowski, Veronica L. **Master Sgt.**

Miller, Thomas J.

Miller, Thomas J.

Nichelson, Broc L.

Pattee, Michael A.

Potgeter, Greg M.

Reaser, Brandon P.

Saile, Steven M.

Scott, Brent W.

West, Ryan A.

### Senior Airman

Evans, Triston A.

Harris, Chad M.

Johnson, Gary G.

Meese, Matthew E.

Meese, Matthew E.

Neil, Ryan B.

Reusser, Brian S.

Smith, Dontell R.

Vandriessche, Robert

Voories, Farrah A.

### Airman 1st Class

Arnold, Elisabeth T.

Colden, Elisabeth T.

## Army

### Brig. Gen.

McDaniel, Michael

### Col.

Singer, Richard

### Lt. Col.

Chapin, James

Shirkey, Jim

### Maj.

Bonney, Brian

Burton, Steven

Hall, John

Snyder, Bruce

### Capt.

Eichler, Jason

Stacy, Jody

### 1st Lt.

Braxton, Royce

Imber, David

Mueller, Travis

Robertson, Troy

### 2nd Lt.

Ackley, Raymond

Brey, Herman

Civille, Brian

Corner, Jason

Everts, Jason

Matthews, Robert

Patterson, Scott

Perkins, Micah

### Warrant Officer

Duckworth, Matthew

Williams, Jason

### Cmd. Sgt. Maj.

Engel, John

### Sgt. Maj.

Nichols, James

Bonney, Monika

Henry, Michael

Neer, Dennis

### Sgt. 1st Class

Dick, Bryan

Eurich, Paul

Hamman, Jeffrey

Hite, James

Loosvelt, Ronald

Send, Matthew

Simpson, Christopher

Spagnuolo, Andrew

### Staff Sgt.

Ayers, Fred

Brabon, Nathan

Brown, Christa

Burton, Tijuana

Catterfeld, Lucas

Dams, Kenneth

Deyoung, Mark

Dotson, Tammica

Fall, Adam

Hawkins, Jeffrey

Korson, Duane

Meyers, Michael

Munson, Charles

Nutt, Grace

Palka, Keith

Sanders, Damario

Stevens, Scott

Thomas, Todd

Warner, Daniel

Weaver, Jason

### Sgt.

Argue, Kevin

Banat, Sami

Beebe, Daniel

Bodis, Jeremy

Ciesielski, Jess

Crossgrove, William

Gall, Michael

Gizicki, Creg

Henry, Clint

Khoe, Michael

King, Tyler

Krawczyk, Andrew

Mackowiak, Dillon

Manifold, Robert

Mann, Andrew

Moore, Hope

Parker, Aaron

Pelak, Stanley

Reid, Gary

Rogers, William

Schneider, Todd

Service, Nichols

Shumaker, Anthony

Sivil, Alexander

Smith, Derek

Tucker, Brian

Ulrich, Kurt

Vennekotter, Anthony

Vogt, Tony

Wakkuri, Stephanie

Waller, Jason

Westbrook, John

Williams, Aaron

### Spc.

Adams, Matthew

Andrews, Brian

Archambault, Natalie

Benavidez, Ruben

Betterly, Joshua

Blakney, Kavoris

Blodgett, Jenny

Bradley, William

Brassaw, Morris

Breisacher, Robert

Brockmiller, James

Brogdon, Candice

Brooks, Nathan

Charles, Travis

Chester, Mark

Colby, Amy

Corner, Teresa

Dale, Daniel

Davis, Jason

Dixon, Roy

Dzierzyc, Amy

Fitzner, Kenneth

Franklin, Carlos

Gasperich, Steven

Goldi, Dennis

Grebe, Christopher

Guerra, Logan

Gygi, Fredric

Hardaway, Elliot

Hayden, Julia

Helma, Gabriel

Hier, Kevin

Hoekstra, Allen

Horan, Russell

Johnson, Nicholas

Kaiser, Alexandra

King, Dustin

Klackning, Michael

Koependoerfer, Joshua

Kohlman, Michael

Kroll, Daniel

Laakso, Jeff

Lacey, Gerald

Lane, Toriano

Laux, Robert

Lister, Jon

Locht, Donald

Lopez, Rochelle

Majik, Jamie

Martinez, Jason

Martinez, Jennifer

Maung, Chan

Megerle, Michael

Melvin, Aaron

Mireles, Jeremiah

Mitchell, Marla

Mogg, Brandy

Moore, Nicholas

Nichols, Eric

Olson, Christopher

Pirlot, Michael

Pleaugh, Francis

Pollard, Jenna

Raymond, Levi

Richards, Jason

Rickett, Preston

Roberts, Kyle

Rood, Matthew

Ross, Robert

Schulte, Jessica

Sevilla, Kenneth

Smith, George

Stemm, Stephen

Stephens, Adam

Straley, Jeffrey

Thiel, Nicholas

Tidwell, Brandon

Tuckerman, Katy

Williams, Eric

Wojcik, Christopher

Wood, Sean

Wright, Trevor

### Pfc.

Alexander, Alexeis

Alexander, Charles

Assenmacher, Nicholas

Barnby, Jonathon

Bennett, Richard

Berry, Daniel

Bitely, Jessica

Bravata, Jason

Breisach, Stephen

Broadhurst, Daniel

Brooks, Jordan

Carter, Gionathan

Castaneda, Luis

Chesney, Tiffany

Clampit, Benjamin

Cummings, Dewayne

Dew, Brandon

Dinius, Johnathan

Ede, James

Eichhorn, Allen

Falconer, Cortnee

Feasel, Robert

Fether, Andrew

Franklin, Brian

Frasure, Brandon

Fulkerson, Michael

Gaskin, Deandrea

Gill, Brandon

Hansen, Jenna

Hayes, Charles

Hebert, John

Hilbrand, Matthew

Horst, Cory

Hosford, Andrew

Hubert, Anthony

Huston, Erin

Johnson, Kyle

Kahl, April

Kane, Joseph

Keller, Mitchell

Klush, Michele

Kujat, Daryl

Larner, Joseph

Major, Joshua

Mendoza, Dennis

Monroe, Kyle

Mullenix, Mary

Nakata, Joshua

Newell, Donald

Oates, James

Ondrajka, Justin

Owens, Phillip

Pak, Joseph

Pellot, Leo

Pepper, Jesse

Piche, Daniel

Plante, Kara

## Promotions continued

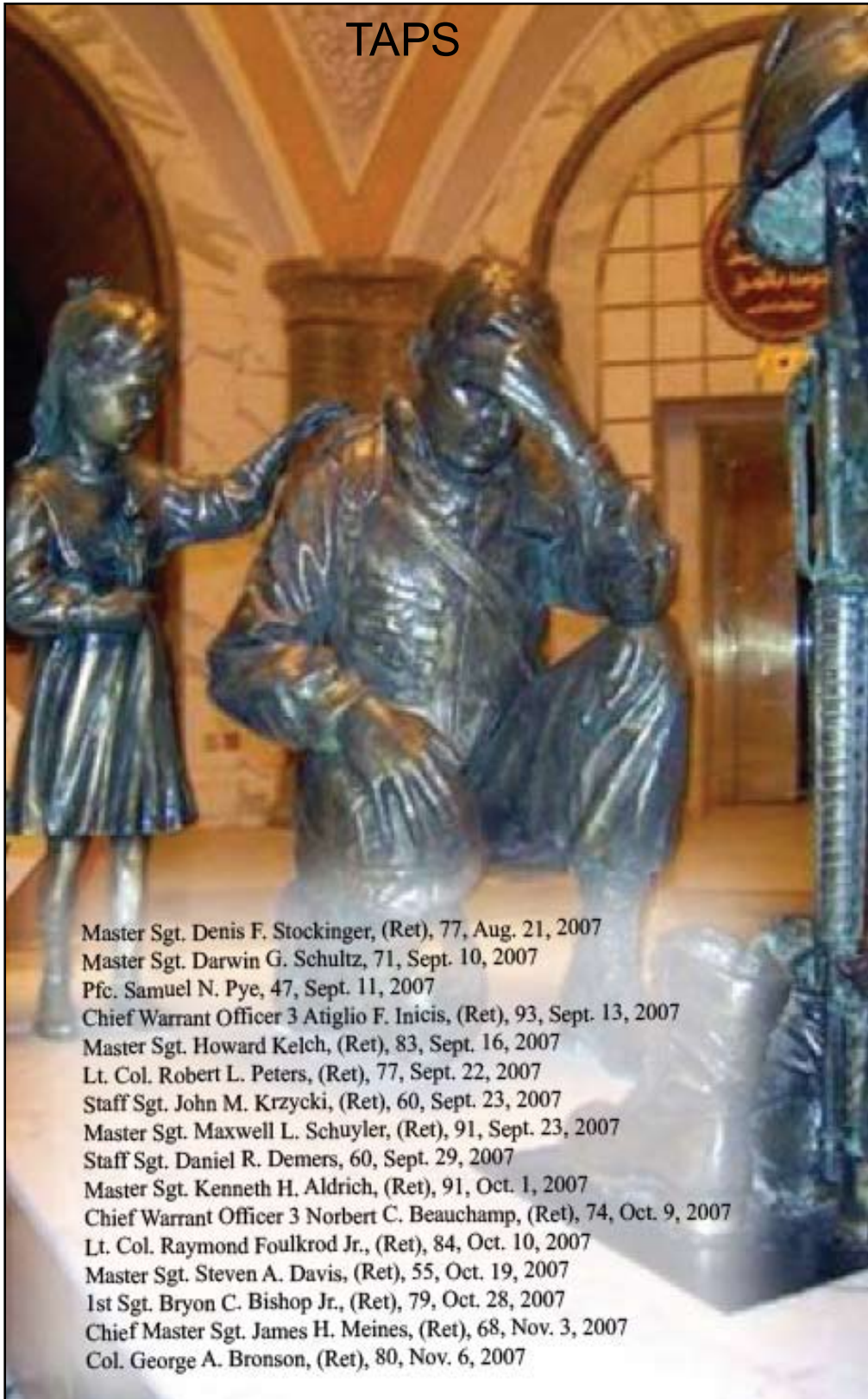
Prpich, Steven  
Pupa, Mitchell  
Ray, Derek  
Reed, Walter  
Resendez, Mario  
Richardson, Ryan  
Salazar, Alicia  
Sawdy, Kyle  
Schmits, Jeffrey  
Sclesky, Robert  
Seager, Brandon  
Seymour, Andrew  
Seymour, Natasha  
Smith, Andrew  
Smith, Brett  
Smith, Dee  
Spangler, Anthony  
Sparklin, Christopher  
Stokes, Jonathan  
Stump, Ryan  
Swy, Jasin  
Wahl, Michael  
Waite, Michael  
Walker, Daniel  
Wessels, Megan  
Whipple, Craig  
Wilcox, Mackenzie  
Williamson, Brad  
Wilson, James  
Wirsing, Michael  
Ybarra, Nicolas

## Currently Deployed

Company A, 182nd Field Artillery  
Joint Force Headquarters  
HHD, 177th Military Police Brigade  
ETT Joint Force Headquarters  
107th Engineer Battalion  
127th Wing  
110th Fighter Wing

Iraq  
Operation Jump Start  
Iraq  
Afghanistan  
Iraq  
United Arab Emirates, Operation Jump Start  
Iraq, Afghanistan, Operation Jump Start

## TAPS



### Photo Caption:

This statue currently stands outside the Iraqi palace in Baghdad, Iraq. The statue was created by Iraqi artist Kalat, who for years was forced by Saddam Hussein to make the many hundreds of bronze busts of Saddam that dotted Baghdad. Grateful for the American's liberation of Iraq, Kalat melted three heads of the fallen Saddam statues to create this memorial honoring the American Soldiers and their fallen heroes. The statue will eventually be shipped to Fort Hood, Texas.



Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Kenneth Bodisch

The Michigan and Ohio Army National Guard Brigade Combat Teams are scheduled to team up for a forward deployment to Iraq. Personnel from the two outfits assisted in the presentation of colors during the University of Michigan vs Ohio State rivalry game on Nov. 17, 2007. The Wolverines 14-3 loss to the Buckeyes marks the sixth win for Ohio State in what is considered the number one rivalry game in college football.

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs  
Michigan Army and Air National Guard  
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Lansing, Michigan 48906

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